

In the Claims:

Cancel claims 1-13 and add claims 14-26.

1.-13. (Canceled).

14. (New). A method of exchanging roll sets (5, 6) in rolling mill stands (2, 3, 4) of a rolling mill train (1) having a plurality of rolling mill stands each having a working roll set (6) and a backup roll set (5) supported on top of each other, the method comprising the steps of:

on an operator's side (1b), bringing, in succession, worn-out working roll sets (6) of individual rolling mill stands (2, 3, 4) by separate transversely displaceable carriages (9, 10, 11) a number of which corresponds to a number of rolling mill stands, on a single connection track (14a) and advancing the worn-out working roll sets (6) with a single locomotive into a roll workshop (20);

bringing new working roll sets (6a) from the workshop (20) and depositing the new working roll sets (6a) at predetermined exchanged distances (2a, 3a, 4a) on respective transversely displaceable carriages (9, 10, 11) between the rolling mill stands (2, 3, 4) and distributing the new working roll sets (6a) between respective rolling mill stands (2, 3, 4); and

after unblocking the operator's side (1b), moving out worn-out backup roll sets (5) by the transversely displaceable carriages (9, 10, 11) after dismounting the

work-out rolling sets (6), bringing the worn-out backup roll sets (5) by a crane in the roll workshop (20), servicing the worn-out backup roll sets (5) in the workshop (20), and transporting the serviced backup roll sets (5) from the workshop (20) and mounting the serviced backup roll sets (5) in corresponding rolling mill stands (2, 3, 4).

15. (New). A method according to claim 14, wherein the step of bringing, in succession, worn-out working roll sets (6) includes simultaneously adjusting, in a starting position (1a) in front of each rolling mill stand (2, 3, 4), the transversely displaceable carriages (9, 10, 11) to respective exchange distances (2a, 3a, 4a), moving out the worn-out working roll sets (6) on one halves of the respective transversely displaceable carriages (9, 10, 11) and subsequently moving the worn-out working roll sets (6) by the respective transversely displaceable carriages (9, 10, 11) and via slide strips at respective chocks into the roll workshop (20) and unloading the worn-out working roll sets (6) there, and wherein the step of bringing new working roll sets (6a) and distributing the new working roll sets between respective rolling mill stands (2, 3, 4) includes bringing the new working roll sets (6a) to the starting position (1a) and after the worn-out working roll sets (6) are moved out, transversely displacing the new working roll sets (6a) on another halves of the respective transversely displaceable carriages (9, 10, 11) and moving the new working roll sets (6a) in the respective rolling mill stands (2, 3, 4).

16. (New). A method according to claim 15, wherein the moving-out step includes pulling, in the start position (1a), respective worn-out working roll sets (6) onto respective one halves of the transversely displaceable carriages, and wherein the moving-in step includes pushing the new working roll sets (6a), which are brought from the roll workshop (20), on the another halves of the respective carriages (2, 3, 4) at the respective exchange distances (2a, 3a, 4a) and, with respective axial spacings.

17. (New). A method according to claim 14, comprising the step of moving the transversely displaceable carriages (9, 10, 11) in a rolling direction (13) one after another from predetermined positions thereof for mounting the new working roll sets (6a) in the respective rolling mill stands (2, 3, 4) and for dismounting the worn-out rolling mill sets (6).

18. (New). A method according to claim 14, comprising the step of establishing between the transversely displaceable carriages (9, 10, 11), precisely reproducible distances and exchange positions with respect to adjacent rolling mill stands (2, 3, 4) with respective intermediate plates (7a) pivotally attached to the transversely displaceable carriages (9, 10, 11) and pivoted in a horizontal plane, and canceling the established exchange distances (2a, 3a, 4a) by pivotal and vertical displacement of at least one of the intermediate plates (7a) and closing plates (18).

19. (New). A method according to claim 15, comprising the step of forming a respective gap in front of each of the rolling mill stands (2, 3, 4) for exchange of the backup roll sets (5) by displacing away the transversely displaceable carriages (9, 10, 11) to dismount a respective worn-out backup roll set (5) and mount a serviced backup roll set with a crane.

20. (New). A method according to claim 19, wherein the gap-forming step includes closing the gap in front of each rolling mill stand (2, 3, 4) by pivoting the intermediate plates (7a), and displacing the respective transversely displaceable carriages (9, 10, 11) to the exchange distances (2a, 3a, 4a).

21. (New). A method according to claim 14, comprising the step of displacing empty transversely displaceable carriages (9, 10, 11), with the intermediate plates (7a) being pivoted out, in a parking position at one of the opposite ends of the rolling mill train (1).

22. (New). An installation for exchanging roll sets (5, 6) in rolling mill stands (2, 3, 4) of a rolling mill train (1) with several rolling mill stands (2, 3, 4) having respective backup and working roll sets (5, 6), comprising a drive for transverse mounting and dismounting roll sets (5, 6); transversely displaceable carriages (9, 10, 11) connected with the drive; continuous rails (14) for the transversely displaceable carriages (9, 10, 11) and which are placed in a foundation (15) parallel to a rolling direction (13) at fixed distances (16) between the rolling mill stands (2,

3, 4); pivotal intermediate plates (7a) for controlling the distances (16); a single connection track (14a) extending to a roll workshop (20) transverse to the rails (14) for the transversely displaceable carriages (9, 10, 11); and a locomotive (21) displaceable along the connection track (14a) and to which the working roll sets (6, 6a) are attachable and detachable.

23. (New). An installation according to claim 22, wherein the intermediate plates (7a) are pivotable upwardly or downwardly in a vertical plane, or are adjustable in a horizontal plane.

24. (New). An installation according to claim (22), wherein the intermediate plates (7a) are, respectively, pivotally mounted on respective transversely displaceable carriages (9, 10, 11) and are pivotable by piston cylinder drives (17) pivotally secured on the respective transversely displaceable carriages, (9, 10, 11).

25. (New). An installation according to claim 22, wherein the transversely displaceable carriages (9, 10, 11), intermediate plates (7a) pivotal in a horizontal plane, and closing plates (18) pivotally mounted in a stationary position and pivotable vertically and horizontally, form together a continuous accessible surface (19).

26. (New). An installation according to claim 22, wherein at the ends of the rails (14) that run parallel to the rolling direction (13), respective fixedly and

pivotally supported closing plates (18) are arranged and which provide for movement of at least half of the transversely displaceable carriages (9, 10, 11) together with the pivotal intermediate plates (7a).